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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/500,682	07/02/2004	Dolf Henricus Jozef Van-Casteren	NL 020007	6574
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Philips Electronics North America Corporation Corporate Patent Counsel PO Box 3001 Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510			EXAMINER	
			LE, TUNG X	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2821	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/500,682	VAN CASTEREN, DOLF HENRICUS JOZEF
	Examiner Tung X. Le	Art Unit 2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on the amendment submitted 4/18/2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3-4,7 -10, and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2,5,6 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's communication submitted on April 18, 2007 is acknowledged; claim 12 is newly added; and claims 1-12 are presented in the instant application.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the recited limitations of "**a varying component**" must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 4, 7, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kamoi et al. (U.S. 6,437,515 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Kamoi discloses in figure 2 a circuit for a lamp (La) comprising a first sub-circuit (1A) for connecting to mains voltage (AC) of a predetermined frequency (the main voltage [AC] having a selected frequency itself of the voltage for supplying to the ballast circuit) for rectifying the mains voltage (the rectifier [DB] for rectifying the main [AC] voltage to a DC voltage); a second sub-circuit (Q1-Q2) connected to the first sub-circuit (figure 2) for providing an alternating current required for the lamp (having an inverter [Q1-Q2] functioning as an alternating current); and a control circuit (4A and 5A) which is connected to the first and the second sub-circuit (figure 2) and which controls the frequency of the alternating current subject to a varying component (11A) of the mains voltage rectified by the first sub-circuit (column 5, lines 5-17).

Regarding claim 3, Kamoi discloses in figures 8 and 14 the second sub-circuit comprises a converter circuit (having a buck converter [82]) for stabilizing direct current

(DC current) and a switching device (Q1-Q4) for providing a square-wave current (f) of a desired level (figures 16-20).

Regarding claim 4, Kamoi discloses in figure 2 that the control circuit (4A and 5A) is connected on one side to a switch (Q11) in the first sub-circuit and on the other side to one or more switches (Q1-Q2) in the switching device (inverter), so that the phase and/or frequency of the lamp current controlled by the switching device is controlled subject to a variation of the predetermined frequency of the mains voltage or a multiple thereof (column 6, lines 36-51).

Regarding claim 7, Kamoi discloses in figure 2 that the second sub-circuit comprises an igniter (figure 2) for generating voltage pulse across the lamp so as to ignite the lamp (column 3, lines 26-52).

Regarding claim 10, Kamoi discloses in figure 2 a method for operating a lamp comprising the steps of rectifying (DB) a supplied mains voltage (AC) and bringing it to a desired voltage level (figure 2); and generating an alternating current (Q1-Q2) wherein the frequency of the alternating current is controlled subject to a varying component (11A) of the rectified mains voltage (column 4, lines 52-67 and column 5, lines 1-4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2821

6. Claims 8-9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamoi (U.S. 6,437,515 B1).

Regarding claims 8-9, Kamoi discloses every feature of the claimed invention, as expressly recited in claim 1, excluding a voltage ranges 100V-150V and 10V-100V of the rectified mains voltages. However, such a difference is not of patentable merits since the ranged voltages can be selected at a desired level based on a particular application or environment of use and such a selection of a design choice would have been involved with only routine skills in the art. Therefore, to employ the voltage ranges of Kamoi to be suitable to a desired application or environment of use would have been deemed obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Regarding claim 12, Kamoi discloses every feature of the claimed invention, as expressly recited in claim 10, except for specifying that the desired level is +/- 0.8 A for normal operation of the lamp. However, such a desired level of +/- 0.8 A is not of patentable merits since the ranged of current can be selected at a desired level based on a particular application or environment of use and such a selection of a design choice would have been involved with only routine skills in the art. Therefore, to employ the current range of Kamoi to be suitable to a desired application or environment of use would have been deemed obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 2, 5-6 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the following limitations:

- The circuit for a lamp, comprising wherein the frequency of the alternating current provided by the second sub-circuit is synchronized with a variation of the predetermined frequency of the mains voltage rectified by the first sub-circuit as in dependent claim 5.
- Claims 2, 6, and 11 were objected in the previous Office Action indicated the reasons of allowable subject matter.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed on April 18, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Kamoi does not disclose a control circuit which is connected to the first and the second sub-circuit and which controls the frequency of the alternating current subject to a varying component of the mains voltage rectified by the first sub-circuit. However, Examiner disagrees the above arguments since the following reasons:

- Kamoi clearly discloses in figures 2 and 8 a control circuit (4A and 5A) which is connected to the first sub-circuit (including a rectifier [1A] and a boost converter circuit [11A]) and the second sub-circuit (including a buck converter [82] and a switching device [83]) and which controls the frequency of the alternating current (alternating current provided by an inverter or a switching circuit [82 or Q1-Q2])

subject to a varying component (11A) of the mains voltage rectified by the first sub-circuit as claimed in independent claim 1 and a method claim 10 as well.

- However, a varying component must be shown in the drawings or defined in the specification with a particular element.

Inquiry

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung X. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-6010. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

11. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Douglas Owens can be reached on 571-272-1662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Examiner
Tung Le
AU 2821

June 21, 2007


TRINH DINH
PRIMARY EXAMINER